

Message from the President - Otis Nyandoro 2016

Typically the year of a SACAC president starts upon election at the annual AGM. As I look back from the AGM at the beginning of the year at Forum Homini at the Cradle of Humankind a lot has happened over the last couple of months. The AGM's keynote presentation was done by Professor Margret Bauer who reflected on her experiences at ABB in Germany. Her reflections on the recent developments of the Internet of Things for Control Applications and Automation were well received. The occasion was graced by the SAIEE President.

As the national member organisation for the International Federation of Automatic Control, SACAC's goal for more than five decades of its existence has been to maintain a formal association with IFAC. To this end a number of key IFAC events have been hosted in South Africa. These have included the most memorable 2014 IFAC World Congress. A number of SACAC individuals continue to hold key roles in IFAC in technical committees and other administrative committees.

Another key goal has been to continually organise workshops that are relevant to its members. A key addition to the workshops has been to offer workshops to members especially outside of Gauteng. SACAC has also seen more workshops added to its offering list with workshops such as the Observer Design workshop, Modern Techniques and Software for Process Control and the more typical workshops such as Functional Design Specifications Workshop. The postgraduate students continue to annually hold the Control Systems Day, which was hosted in November at the North West University.

The year started off with the AGM and looking to the future we would like to invite our members to the AGM to be held in February 2017. Future events to look forward to are the Control Conference for Africa to be held from the 7th to the 8th of December 2017 and also IFAC's MMM Symposium to be held in 2019. We would like to encourage our members to take part in the organisation and participation of these major events.